

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03612 271033 Z

14

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EA-13 NSCE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2632

INFO AMEMBASSY GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3612

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN JA GATT

SUBJ: GATT - TEXTILES - GOJ POSITION FOR APRIL 4
MEETING.

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED GOJ POSITION FOR APRIL 4
GATT TEXTILE MEETING WITH SUZUKI (MITI) AND TSURUMI
(FONOFF). ESSENCE OF THEIR REMARKS IS THAT GOJ POSITION
PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW BUT AS YET NO CHANGE IN BASIC GOJ
UNWILLINGNESS GO BEYOND CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF
THE PROBLEM AS OPPOSED TO CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE
SOLUTIONS. SUZUKI EXPECTS BE ABLE MEET INFORMALLY WITH
UNDEL IN GENEVA APRIL 3. END SUMMARY.

1. E/ COUNS MET WITH TETSUTARO SUZUKI, COUNCILLOR,
TEXTILE AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE BUREAU, MINISTRY OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MARCH 26 TO DISCUSS
GOJ POSITION FOR APRIL 4 MEETING ON TEXTILE PROBLEM.
SUZUKI STATED THAT HE WAS ALMOST CERTAIN HE WOULD AT-
TEND MEETING, BUT SAID GOJ POSITION FOR MEETING NOT YET
FIRM. HE THEN WENT THROUGH USUAL LIST OF REASONS WHY
TEXTILE ISSUE DIFFICULT FOR GOJ AT THIS TIME; E. G.
DIET PRESENTLY IN SESSION, OPPOSITION OF INDUSTRY TO
ANY TYPE OF AGREEMENT, AND VIEW IN JAPAN THAT NEED TO
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03612 271033 Z

CONCLUDE TEXTILE AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE OF GENERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GATT NOT AS URGENT AS U. S. BELIEVES. HE ADDED FURTHER ARGUMENT THAT RECENT YEN REVALUATION AND DOLLAR REVALUATION WOULD GREATLY AFFECT JAPAN' S TEXTILE SAON UNTIL SUCH CONSULTATIONS COULD BE HELD.

3. DI BERNARDO ASSURED MARTIN THAT ITALY, AS A GOOD ALLY, HAD NO INTENTION OF CONTESTING PUBLICLY AGAINST A USG POSITION BEFORE IT WAS EVEN ADOPTED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IN SPEECH WHICH HE PLANNED TO DELIVER TO CCD IN EARLY APRIL HE COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM RESTATING IN GENERAL TERMS ITALIAN POSITION IN FAVOR OF COMPREHENSIVE CW BAN. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD ALSO EXPRESS ITALIAN WILLINGNESS TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH REGARD TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE CW PROPOSAL, INCLUDING A PARTIAL ONE, SO LONG AS THERE WAS FIRM LINKAGE TO GOAL OF TOTAL PROHIBITION AS PROVIDED, E. G. IN ART IX OF BW CONVENTION. DI BERNARDO EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS SPEECH, ACCORDING TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS, HE WOULD HAVE TO REFER TO GOI POSITION THAT PARTIAL MEASURE WHICH DID NOT PROVIDE FOR DESTRUCTION OF STOCKPILES WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. DE BERNARDO ADDED THAT THIS WAS ISSUE WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED WITHIN ALLIANCE LATER THOUGH ITALIANS WANTED PUT THEIR POSITION ON RECORD NOW.

4. MARTIN URGED DI BERNARDO TO REQUEST CHANGE IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID SUCH CATEGORIC STATEMENT ON STOCK-PILE ISSUE WHICH HE POINTED OUT WOULD GO BEYOND PREVIOUS ITALIAN STATEMENTS ON CW. MARTIN EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE NOT ASKING ITALIANS TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION AT THIS TIME BUT RATHER TO AVOID TAKING PUBLIC POSITION WHICH COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING TO US BOTH AND HAMPER ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMON ENDEAVORS REGARDING CW. MARTIN ADDED THAT DISCUSSION OF THE MERITS OF ITALIAN POSITION WOULD BECOME PERTINENT LATER WHEN USG DECISION ON CW WAS DETERMINED BUT THAT THE DIFFICULTIES OF VERIFYING
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01343 271032 Z

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION WERE ALREADY OBVIOUS. DI BERNARDO TOLD MARTIN THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT US REQUEST TO ROME AND HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN REACTION OF ITALIAN EMBOFF TO PARALLEL US PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON. MARTIN INDICATED THAT EMBOFF HAD SAID US REQUEST SOUNDED REASONABLE. RIMESTAD

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